

MODULAR WEAPON SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION

The Modular Weapon System (MWS) consists of an M16A4 rifle, which in turn is a modified M16A2 service rifle. An M1913 Rail Adapter System (RAS) replaces the upper hand guards of the M16A2 and incorporates a removable rear-carrying handle. The rail adapter system and modified hand guards allow for the mounting of various accessories such as a modified M203 launching system, high intensity flashlights, and IR laser target designators as well as optics.

The MWS will also modify the M4 carbine, which will be selectively fielded to Marines requiring shorter carbine versions of the MWS.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Use of the MWS will result in a significant improvement in the ability to mount various accessories and will improve the accuracy, target detection, day and night engagement capabilities, and the maintainability of the M16 family of rifles.

PROGRAM STATUS

Fielding of the MWS began in FY 2003 and continues through FY 2007, for a total of 65,463 weapons.



PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

Quantity:

FY 04

15,600

FY 05

11,000

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Colt Manufacturing Company, Inc., Hartford, CT

Fabrique National Military Industries, Columbia, SC